

HARTFORD APARTMENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT MAKES NATIONAL NEWS

--- NEWS AND COMMUNITY STATEMENT---

(August 8, 2011) --- Hartford once again is in the national spotlight. A City of Hartford development project that was announced by Mayor Pedro E. Segarra in March during his State of the City Address is now getting attention coast-to-coast. A recent write-up in the *New York Times* focuses on how developers are banking on young singles to help revitalize Downtowns. In Hartford, the former Clarion Hotel at Constitution Plaza will be converted to 193 small apartments.

"There's extremely high demand for studio and one-bedroom apartments in our city and this is directly connected to our need to attract and retain young talent to our City," said Mayor Segarra. Hartford is the job hub of the State and Connecticut's Capital City is alive with award-winning restaurants and arts and entertainment destinations. I am committed to building on this vibrancy by working with public and private partners to provide much needed niche housing."

David Panagore, the City's Chief Operating Officer and Director of Development Services says, "This is all part of the bigger, 10-year plan. This is about vibrancy, more feet on the street and economic development and growth."

Two New York City developers, Wonder Works Construction and Girona Ventures, will develop the long-vacant site.

The Hartford Business Improvement District recently did a survey about Downtown occupancy.

Hartford 21 96% leased
The Lofts at Main and Temple 97% leased
Trumbull on the Park 99% leased
915 Main Street 99% leased
55 on the Park 100% leased
266 Pearl Street 100% leased

Michael Zaleski, Executive Director of the HBID says, "The data supports the need for more units. Property Managers still see a high demand for one bedroom apartments. This could serve as a signal that Hartford is not just a smart move but a wise investment."